

Appl. No. 10/788,763

Amdt. Dated March 1, 2006

Reply to Office Action of November 1, 2005

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed November 1, 2005. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 8, 16, and 21 being the independent claims. Claims 1-21 and 27 have been amended. Claim 27 has been cancelled. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First and Second Paragraphs

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Allegedly, the specification did not enable the subject matter of the collection bag in combination with the embodiment of claim 21, and there were insufficient antecedent bases for certain limitations of the claim. Claim 27 has been cancelled; therefore, these rejections are now moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,437,199 to Kaplan ("Kaplan"). Claims 1-3, 8, 9, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,109,509 to Cramer et al ("Cramer"). Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,285,245 to Kennedy ("Kennedy"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8, and 16 have been amended and now relate to high volume air sampler systems. Claims 1, 8, and 16 each recites, *inter alia*, a pressure reduction apparatus and a high volume air sampler coupled thereto. The pressure reduction apparatus includes a vessel that includes an interior and an exterior, and a port, and a valve affixed to the vessel to allow air to enter the vessel and to prevent air from exiting the vessel. The high volume air sampler is downstream of the vessel and comprises an adapter and a canister, the adapter coupled to the pressure reduction apparatus and including a body having a first section, a second section, and an interior surface defining a

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cavity, the body first section having an opening formed therein that is in communication with the cavity, the body second section having a sample port formed therein that is in communication with the cavity, the sample port having a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the opening, and the canister coupled to the adapter having an inlet opening, an exit opening, an interior region that defines a passage between the inlet and exit openings, and an adsorbent resin disposed within the passage.

Kaplan teaches a portable kit for retrieving, storing, and transporting compressed breathing air samples obtained from compressed breathing air source tanks that includes a pair of quick-disconnect adapters that allow the inlet air flow conduit to be coupled to either a conventional scuba yoke to deliver breathing air or to a conventional fire fighting supply tank yoke. See Abstract. The system also includes an air flow restrictor, a particular air filter, and a vent for proper pressure regulation. See id. Cramer discloses an aircraft breathing system that includes a sensor assembly for monitoring the concentration of oxygen in a source of breathable fluid supplied to a recipient. See Abstract. Kennedy teaches a method and apparatus for measuring and controlling a volumetric flow rate of gases that includes a measurement chamber of fixed volume in a flow line, a controllable inlet valve upstream from the chamber, and flow regulator means for establishing constant flow output downstream from the chamber.

However, none of the cited references teaches a pressure reduction apparatus and a high volume air sampler coupled thereto, where the pressure reduction apparatus includes a vessel that includes an interior and an exterior, and a port, and a valve affixed to the vessel to allow air to enter the vessel and to prevent air from exiting the vessel, and the high volume air sampler is downstream of the vessel, and comprises an adapter and a canister, the adapter coupled to the pressure reduction apparatus and including a body having a first section, a second section, and an interior surface defining a cavity, the body first section having an opening formed therein that is in communication with the cavity, the body second section having a sample port formed therein that is in communication with the cavity, the sample port having a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the opening, and the canister coupled to the adapter having an inlet opening, an exit opening, an interior region that defines a passage between the inlet and exit openings, and an

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adsorbent resin disposed within the passage, as recited in claims 1, 8, and 16.

A claim can only be anticipated if each and every element recited in the claim is disclosed in a reference, either explicitly or impliedly. Accordingly, as Kaplan, Cramer, and Kennedy fail to disclose, either explicitly or inherently, at least the above-noted element of claims 1, 8, and 16 and the Examiner has failed to provide such an explicit or inherent disclosure of this element, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims and the claims that depend therefrom is improper and the Applicants request withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Cramer in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,446,425 to Cleeves ("Cleeves"). Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over either Kennedy or U.S. Patent No. RE35, 639 to Vander Heyden ("Vander Heyden") in view of Cleeves or U.S. Patent No. 6230,573 to Shulten et al ("Shulten"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8, and 16 rely on the arguments presented above regarding Cramer and Kennedy. Moreover, none of Cleeves, Vander Heyden, nor Shulten make up for the deficiencies of Cramer and Kennedy. Cleeves teaches a means for minimizing entry of contaminants such as dirt particles into a system using bleed air from a lower stage peripheral port of a multiple stage rotary compressor. See Abstract. Vander Heyden discloses a method and apparatus for monitoring in real time the mass and energy flow rate of a gas through a pipeline. See Abstract. Shulten teaches a device for gas sampling for gas analysis that includes detector tubes. The device includes a test gas container with a gas inlet pipe, a gas outlet pipe, a mounting opening for the detector tube and with a break-off device for a detector tube tip located in the mounting opening. See Abstract.

However, none of Cleeves, Vander Heyden, nor Shulten disclose or suggest a pressure reduction apparatus and a high volume air sampler coupled thereto, where the pressure reduction apparatus includes a vessel that includes an interior and an exterior, and a port, and a valve affixed to the vessel to allow air to enter the vessel and to prevent

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air from exiting the vessel, and the high volume air sampler is downstream of the vessel, and comprises an adapter and a canister, the adapter coupled to the pressure reduction apparatus and including a body having a first section, a second section, and an interior surface defining a cavity, the body first section having an opening formed therein that is in communication with the cavity, the body second section having a sample port formed therein that is in communication with the cavity, the sample port having a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the opening, and the canister coupled to the adapter having an inlet opening, an exit opening, an interior region that defines a passage between the inlet and exit openings, and an adsorbent resin disposed within the passage, as recited in claims 1, 8, and 16.

Claim 21 relates to a method for sampling a high volume of air from a gas turbine engine and includes the step of leading air from the interior of said vessel at a reduced temperature and pressure relative to the starting temperature and pressure, through a hose, to a high volume air sampler comprising an adapter and a canister, said adapter coupled to the pressure reduction vessel and including a body having a first section, a second section, and an interior surface defining a cavity, said body first section having an opening formed therein that is in communication with said cavity, said body second section having a sample port formed therein that is in communication with said cavity, said sample port having a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the opening, and said canister coupled to said adapter having an inlet opening, an exit opening, an interior region that defines a passage between said inlet and exit openings, and an adsorbent resin disposed within said passage. As mentioned above, none of the references teaches leading air from the interior of said vessel at a reduced temperature and pressure relative to the starting temperature and pressure, through a hose, to a high volume air sampler comprising an adapter and a canister, said adapter coupled to the pressure reduction vessel and including a body having a first section, a second section, and an interior surface defining a cavity, said body first section having an opening formed therein that is in communication with said cavity, said body second section having a sample port formed therein that is in communication with said cavity, said sample port having a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the opening, and said canister coupled to said adapter

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having an inlet opening, an exit opening, an interior region that defines a passage between said inlet and exit openings, and an adsorbent resin disposed within said passage.

The Examiner is well aware of the three basic criteria necessary to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and third, the prior art reference or references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Accordingly, as Cramer, Kennedy, Cleeves, Vander Heyden, and Shulten either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, either explicitly or inherently, at least the above-noted elements of claims 1, 8, 16, and 21, the Examiner has failed to provide such an explicit or inherent disclosure of these elements, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims and the claims that depend therefrom is improper and the Applicants request withdrawal of the § 103 rejection.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1, 8, 16, and 21 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also deemed patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

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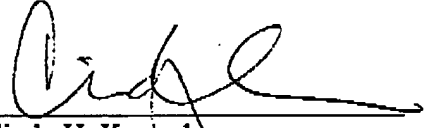
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If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: 3/1/06

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